

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-13

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU, US

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - TURKISH POPPY BAN

1. FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED TO DEPART-
MENT SPOKESMAN FOR FEBRUARY 15 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

2. QUOTE:

Q. HAS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TOLD US IT IS RESCINDING
THE OPIUM BAN?

A. REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAS INFORMED
US IT IS RESCINDING THE BAN ARE NOT CORRECT. AMBASSADOR
WILLIAM MACOMBER MADE HIS FIRST CALL ON NEW TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTER TURAN GUNES ON FEBRUARY 13. AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS

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DISCUSSED IN THE COURSE OF A TWO-AND-ONE-HALF HOUR
TOUR D'HORIZON OF U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS WERE THE

PROBLEMS FACING THE FORMER LEGITIMATE GROWERS OF THE OPIUM POPPY, AND THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS THAT LAY BEHIND TURKEY'S EARLIER DECISION TO BAN CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY.

PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN DIFFER FROM OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONVERSATION. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF A TURKISH DECISION, OR ANY THREAT, TO RESCIND THE BAN. THERE

WAS NO REQUEST FROM TURKEY FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR POPPY-RELATED PROGRAMS NOW UNDER WAY.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PLEDGED IN 1971 A TOTAL OF 35.7 MILLION DOLS. TO ASSIST TURKEY IN ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NEW SOURCES OF INCOME FOR LEGITIMATE FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE BAN. A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THIS AMOUNT HAS NOT YET BEEN USED. IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROGRAMS OF COURSE INVOLVES ONGOING COORDINATION.

CONTINGENT ADDITIONAL

STATUS OF PROGRAMS: OF THE 15 MILLION DOLS. INTENDED TO REPLACE LOSSES OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE SUFFERED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF DISCONTINUING OPIUM EXPORTS, 10 MILLION DOLS. HAS THUS FAR BEEN TRANSFERRED TO TURKEY.

OF THE 20.7 MILLION DOLS. INTENDED TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE FORMER POPPY GROWING AREAS, 10 MILLION DOLS. HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED AND ABOUT 6 MILLION DOLS. ACTUALLY SPENT THUS FAR.

Q. DID TURKEY ASK FOR ANY RECONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER?

A. YOU WILL RECALL THAT CONCERN WITH THE PROBLEMS FACING POPPY FARMERS HAS BEEN PUBLICLY MENTIONED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT AS A PART OF ITS PROGRAM. THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED THIS WAS ONE AMONG OTHER POINTS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS THAT HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS AGAIN
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WITH AMBASSADOR MACOMBER. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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